

Low Cost Home Internet Options for Low Income Families

Montgomery County MD cable service providers are offering low cost monthly Internet Service to low income residents who are new subscribers. Customers may sign up directly with Comcast and RCN. Verizon requires enrollment in the federal Lifeline program and contacting Verizon after installation to receive discounts.

	COMCAST Internet Essentials	VERIZON Federal Lifeline	RCN Internet First
Who is a "new" eligible subscriber?	A household that hasn't subscribed to broadband service for the past 90 days	A household must apply for the federal Lifeline program to receive a discount	A household that hasn't subscribed to broadband service for the past 60 days
Low income families are eligible if they are enrolled in the following programs:			
Medicaid	X	X	X
Public housing assistance (FPHA, HUD or housing assistance payment)	X	X	X
SNAP (food assistance)	X	X	X
WIC (food assistance)	X		X
TANF (temporary assistance)	X		X
NSLP (free school lunch)	X		X
Headstart	X		X
Pell Grants (student education)			X
SSI (Supplemental Security Income)	X		X
Veterans Administration Pension	X	X	X
VA Survivors Benefit		X	
LIHEAP (energy assistance)	X		X
Tribal assistance (including TTANF FDPIR)	X	X	X
Low income families are eligible if their income is 135% of the federal poverty guidelines:		Less than \$17,226 per year for household of 1; less than \$23,274 for 2; less than \$29,322 for 3; less than \$35,370 for 4; add \$6,048 for each additional household member	
Special Eligibility Conditions	Debt owed to Comcast that is more than 1 year old will be forgiven; new debt must be paid; however, debt less than 1 year old will be forgiven if enrolled by June 30, 2020	Must enroll in federal Lifeline program to receive program discount, and MUST contact Verizon at 800-837-4966 after installation to receive discount. Must enroll in autopay billing to receive lowest cost.	Limited service area: Silver Spring to Chevy Chase, and Gaithersburg areas

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Monthly Cost	\$9.95/month	With Lifeline discount of \$20/month and \$10/month for autopay enrollment, lowest priced plan would be \$19.99/month after discount	\$9.95/month
Taxes	No taxes on Internet service		
Equipment Fees for modem and router to provide home WiFi	None	\$15/month after 3rd month	None
Installation Fees	None	\$99 installation if ordered by phone; fee may be waived if ordering online and using coupon.	None
Speed	25 Mbps/3 Mbps	200 Mbps/200 Mbps	25 Mbps/3 Mbps
Subject to Credit Check	No	Yes	No
Other	Access to Comcast Xfinity hotspots	Limited time promotional offers for premium channels	
	\$150 Acer computer with 11" screen available	Additional \$10 total discount if combined with \$70/month wireless phone plan	
COVID-19 Additional Benefits (limited time offers)			
Free Service	2 months free if enrolled by June 30, 2020		2 months free if enrolled by June 30, 2020
Financial	No late fees or service disconnections; debt forgiven for new Internet Essential enrollments by December 31, 2020	No late fees or service disconnections	No late fees or service disconnections
How to Enroll	https://internetessentials.com/	https://www.verizon.com/personal/info/low-income-internet/	https://www.rcn.com/internet-first/

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Visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/OBP for additional information or assistance